



# State of Louisiana

## Department of Environmental Quality



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### **Environmental News**

#### **DEQ HOSTS FIRST LOUISIANA BROWNFIELDS PILOTS WORKSHOP**

(Baton Rouge) -- The Department of Environment Quality (DEQ) has partnered with the University of New Orleans Center for Brownfield Initiative (CBI) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to host the first Louisiana Brownfields Pilots Workshop. The purpose of the workshop is to provide information that will assist local governmental agencies participating in DEQ's and EPA's Brownfields initiative in their common goal of returning brownfield properties back into productive use. The two-day program will take place May 8-9, 2003 at the Doubletree Hotel Lakeside New Orleans in Metairie, Louisiana.

Brownfields are defined as real property, abandoned, idled, or underused industrial and commercial facilities where expansion, redevelopment or reuse is complicated by the actual, perceived or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant. Since its inception in 1995, EPA's Brownfields initiative has grown into a proven, results-oriented program that has changed the way contaminated property is perceived, addressed and managed. Currently, within the state of Louisiana there are ten governmental agencies participating in the program and receiving funds from EPA Region 6. The pilot programs in Louisiana include Baton Rouge, Gretna, Jefferson Parish, Monroe, New Orleans, Shreveport, South Central Planning and Development Commission, Southeastern Louisiana Regional Planning Commission, West Monroe and Westwego.

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The agenda for the workshop reflects topics of importance as expressed by brownfields representatives from the participating pilots. These include the selected panel sessions on The Role of Community Involvement in Brownfields Redevelopment and Site Prioritization and Site Assessments.

Dr. James Brent, DEQ Assistant Secretary for the Office of Environmental Assessment, stated, “DEQ is actively promoting remediation initiatives that serve to clean-up the environment and to revitalize abandoned properties. This event provides an excellent source of information and is a networking opportunity that will allow state brownfields participants to gain insightful information and strategies as we all continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental clean-up and redevelopment.”

Additional information on brownfields can be obtained in DEQ’s website at [www.deq.state.la.us/remediation/ias/vcp.htm](http://www.deq.state.la.us/remediation/ias/vcp.htm) or by contacting Roger Gingles, DEQ brownfields coordinator at 225-765-0333. The website for the University of New Orleans Center for Brownfield Initiatives is <http://www.brownfields.com> and the UNOCBI program coordinator is Phyllis Lewis. She can be reached at 504-280-1237. EPA’s website [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields) or the Louisiana State University’s Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) [www.hsrc.org/hsrc/html/tosc/sswtosc/tab.html](http://www.hsrc.org/hsrc/html/tosc/sswtosc/tab.html) also have information available.